

PATENT  
Atty. Docket No. ADI-020CN  
(257/25)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Dobrounig

SERIAL NUMBER: Not assigned ART UNIT: 3711

FILING DATE: January 29, 2001 EXAMINER: Not assigned

TITLE: Football

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination, please enter this Preliminary Amendment and consider the accompanying remarks. Amend the application as follows, without prejudice:

**IN THE ABSTRACT**

On page 16, please replace the existing abstract with the following:

--The present invention relates to a ball, in particular a football. The ball according to the invention has, in its outer skin, a syntactic material that consists of a matrix material into which essentially dimensionally stable, elastic blow-molded parts are mixed. Furthermore, a new method of producing a ball with a verre églomisé print is also disclosed.--

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 1, after line 5, please add

**--Cross-Reference to Related Applications**

This application incorporates by reference, and claims priority to, and the benefit of, German patent application serial number 19732824.5, which was filed on July 30, 1997 and U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/126,876, filed July 30, 1998, of which this is a continuation.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 13-23, amend claims 1, 2, 6, and 11, and add claims 24-28, as follows.

1. (Amended) A ball comprising an outer skin, the outer skin being formed as a sheet including a first layer which includes a syntactic material.
2. (Amended) A ball according to claim 1 wherein the syntactic material comprises a plurality of resilient spherical bodies dispersed in a matrix material.
6. (Amended) A ball according to claim 2 [1] wherein the matrix material is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyurethane foam, polyvinyl chloride, and latex.
11. (Amended) A ball according to claim 2 [1] wherein the matrix material is an adhesive.
- 24. A ball according to claim 1, wherein the sheet is cut into individual elements which are joined together.
25. A ball according to claim 24, wherein the individual elements are sewn together.
26. A ball according to claim 2, wherein the spherical bodies are not more than 20% by weight of the matrix material.
27. A ball according to claim 2, wherein the spherical bodies are not less than 1% by weight of the matrix material.
28. A ball comprising an inflatable bladder core and an outer skin, the outer skin including a first layer which includes a syntactic material.--

REMARKS

The abstract of the disclosure is hereby amended by replacement to delete the reference numbers and the "is claimed" language. Applicant respectfully submits that the abstract does not constitute new matter, support being found in the original abstract.

Independent claim 1 is hereby amended to more clearly define the subject matter of Applicant's invention. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at least on page 4, lines 15-29, and page 8, line 18, to page 10, line 3.

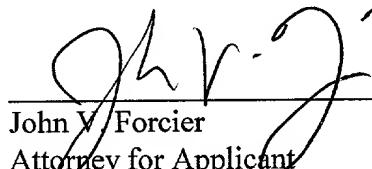
Claims 2, 6, and 11 are hereby amended to provide sufficient antecedent basis for "the matrix material." No new matter is added thereby.

Applicant hereby adds claims 24-28. No new matter is added thereby. Support for claims 24 and 25 can be found in the specification at least on page 4, lines 26-29, and page 10, lines 1-3. Support for claims 26 and 27 can be found in the specification at least on page 7, lines 22-27. Support for claim 28 can be found in the specification at least on page 6, lines 8-22, and in Fig. 1.

### CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this amendment and allowance of claims 1-12 and 24-28 in due course. If, in the Examiner's opinion, a telephonic interview would expedite the favorable prosecution of the present application, the undersigned attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues with the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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